Mrs. A. M. Houghton.

Dedham Feb 7 – 1841,

Mr Phelps,

Sir, Doct Wheaton handed me your of the 2 inst, in which you request to be informed wether the Anti Slavery meeting refered to by Mr Lee was "private" if so in what sense it was private, I did say to Mr Lee it was private, I only meant it was not a regular appointed meeting I did not mean it was secret, notice was given as extensively as the time permitted. I do not think there was any preconserted plan, with respect to the meeting, I believe Mr Collins came unexpectedly, however wishing to know how many would probaly go to New York, to the Convention, as many as could be were notified, and met at Friends house, I was chosen a delegat accordingly, I requested Mr Collins to explain the Object of the convention, also the duty of church member, He did so in the maner I stated to Mr Lee, with regard to "betraying trust" it was understood at the commencement of the meeting we were all of one mind, Mr Collins explaination was said, I felt it my duty to say I could go with him, nor those who upheld him any longer in Anti Slavery efforts, accordingly I gave my reason why I had changed my opinion, I was told Mr Collins friends thought I did wrong to report the conversation, but I never was told why; Sir, I have commited the conversation between Mr Collins & myself to you, if you can in any make it subserviant for the good of the poor Slave, you are at liberty, but as the excitement of the past Summer, has measurably subsided, I hope nothing will be said, calculated to rekindle feelings by no means conducive to the cause of Abolitionism.

Yours Respectfully A M Houghton